

05/14/2009

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claims 131 and 142 and cancel claims 1, 7-9, 120-122, 134, and 136-141¹ without prejudice or admission as shown in the following listings of claims, which replaces all previous versions and listings of claims in this application.

1. - 130. (canceled).

131. (currently amended) A near-field optical head
comprising:

a planar substrate having a first surface, a second surface disposed opposite to the first surface, and an inverted conical or pyramidal hole extending through the first and second surfaces, the inverted conical or pyramidal hole having at least one fine aperture formed at an apex thereof and disposed in the first surface and having at least one curved slant surface;

an optical waveguide extending into the inverted conical or pyramidal hole of the planar substrate for propagating light along an optical path; and

a mirror disposed in the optical waveguide for bending in the direction of the fine aperture the optical path of the light propagated through the optical waveguide;

¹ Claims 2-6, 10-119, 123-130 and 135 were canceled in previously filed amendments.